

21 edge and an outside tread edge to be placed on the inside and outside of a vehicle, respectively,

outside lateral grooves extending from the outside tread edge to a tread center region beyond the tire equator, each said outside lateral groove having a groove center line X0 inclined towards one direction with respect to the tire circumferential direction at an angle $\theta 0$ of from 40 to 60 degrees with respect to the tire circumferential direction,

inside lateral grooves extending from the inside tread edge to the tread center region, each said inside lateral groove having a groove center line X5 inclined at an angle $\theta 5$ of from 70 to 100 degrees with respect to the tire circumferential direction,

each portion between the circumferentially adjacent outside lateral grooves divided into outside blocks by outside connecting grooves extending thereacross, said outside connecting grooves comprising a first groove, a second groove, a third groove and a fourth groove arranged in this order from the outside tread edge toward the inside tread edge,

the first outside connecting groove having a first groove center line X1, the second outside connecting groove having a second groove center line X2, the third outside connecting groove having a third groove center line X3, the fourth outside connecting

a groove having a fourth groove center line X4, the first to fourth groove center lines X1 to X4 inclined reversely to the groove center lines X0 of the outside lateral grooves with respect to the tire circumferential direction, wherein the inclination angles θ_1 , θ_2 , θ_3 and θ_4 of the first, second, third and fourth groove center lines X1, X2, X3 and X4, respectively, with respect to the tire circumferential direction are in a range of from 20 to 50 degrees and [being] different from each other, and the inclination angles satisfy the following condition: $\theta_1 > \theta_2 > \theta_3 > \theta_4$,

each portion between the circumferentially adjacent inside lateral grooves is divided into inside blocks by at least one inside connecting groove extending thereacross, said at least one inside connecting groove having a groove center line X6 inclined at an angle θ_6 of more than 0 degrees with respect to the tire circumferential direction towards the same direction as the outside lateral grooves.

- 12 3. (Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein angle differences $\theta_1 - \theta_2$, $\theta_2 - \theta_3$ and $\theta_3 - \theta_4$ are not less than 5 degrees

Please add the following claims:

- a3 sub B7
4. The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angle θ_4 of the center line X4 of the fourth outside connecting groove is larger than the inclination angle θ_6 of the center line X6 of said at least one inside connecting groove.
5. The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angles θ_1 , θ_2 , θ_3 , θ_4 and θ_6 of the center lines of said outside connecting grooves and said at least one inside connecting groove are gradually decreased from the outside tread edge to the inside tread edge.
- sub B7
6. The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angle θ_6 of the center line of said at least one inside connecting groove is substantially 90 degrees.
7. The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angle θ_6 of the center line of said at least one inside connecting groove is more than 90 degrees but not more than 100 degrees.

5W
B7
Q3
8. A combination of pneumatic tires comprising a left tire for one side of a vehicle and a right tire for the other side of the vehicle,

each of the left tire and right tire comprising

a tread portion provided with a block pattern being asymmetric about the tire equator, said tread portion having an inside tread edge and an outside tread edge to be placed on the inside and outside of the vehicle, respectively,

outside lateral grooves extending from the outside tread edge to a tread center region, each said outside lateral groove having a groove center line X0 inclined towards one direction with respect to the tire circumferential direction at an angle $\theta 0$ of from 40 to 60 degrees with respect to the tire circumferential direction,

inside lateral grooves extending from the inside tread edge to the tread center region, each said inside lateral groove having a groove center line X5 inclined at an angle $\theta 5$ of from 70 to 100 degrees with respect to the tire circumferential direction,

each portion between the circumferentially adjacent outside lateral grooves divided into outside blocks by outside connecting grooves extending thereacross, said outside connecting grooves comprising a first groove, a second groove, a third groove and a

5th
B7 fourth groove arranged in this order from the outside tread edge toward the inside tread edge,

Q3 the first outside connecting groove having a first groove center line X1, the second outside connecting groove having a second groove center line X2, the third outside connecting groove having a third groove center line X3, the fourth outside connecting groove having a fourth groove center line X4, the first to fourth groove center lines X1 to X4 inclined reversely to the groove center lines X0 of the outside lateral grooves with respect to the tire circumferential direction, wherein

the inclination angles θ_1 , θ_2 , θ_3 and θ_4 of the first, second, third and fourth groove center lines X1, X2, X3 and X4, respectively, with respect to the tire circumferential direction are in a range of from 20 to 50 degrees and different from each other, and the inclination angles satisfy the following condition:
 $\theta_1 > \theta_2 > \theta_3 > \theta_4$,

each portion between the circumferentially adjacent inside lateral grooves is divided into inside blocks by at least one inside connecting groove extending thereacross, said at least one inside connecting groove having a groove center line X6 inclined at an angle θ_6 of more than 0 degrees with respect to the tire

Appl. No. 09/741,046

Response filed on November 4, 2002

5146
B7 circumferential direction towards the same direction as the outside

A3 lateral grooves.--
